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WYOMING LABOR FORCE TRENDS

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Features

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Trends News

By Gordon Wolford

•U.S. Unemployed Rate at Three Year High

Nationwide, seasonally adjusted unemployment reached 5.9 percent, in November. This compares to 5.7 percent in September and October, a two and one-half year high. Prior to last July, which registered 5.5 percent, the jobless rate had fluctuated around the 5.3 mark for nearly two years.

September and October unemployment represented the highest number of unemployed persons since February 1988. There were 7.1 million unemployed across the nation, this October, compared to 6.6 million last year.

Nationally, manufacturing employment had the greatest job loss in October, down by 95,000 from September and 382,000 over the year. Durable goods industries are responsible for most of these job losses with consumer demand falling for the so called "big ticket" items. Construction worker losses (143,000 from last year) also contributed to the unemployment rise (See related CES regional & state discussion, Page 3).

White adult women had the lowest unemployment, at 4.2 percent, followed by 4.4 percent for their male counterparts. Black female teenagers had the highest jobless rate: 33.1 percent.

•Wyoming Unemployment Down, at 5.0 %

At 5.0 percent seasonally adjusted, Wyoming unemployment was down sharply, from 5.4 percent in September. The Wyoming rate was below the national rate for the fifth month in a row. One year ago, unemployment stood at 6.0 percent.

The unadjusted Wyoming rate, at 4.4 percent, was the lowest October rate since 1981. This compares to 4.5 percent last month and 5.3 percent last year. Mild fall weather, in most parts of the state, appears to have postponed some of the usual, seasonal, October construction layoffs and unemployment gains.

•Late Year Tourism Fuels Trade and Service Gains

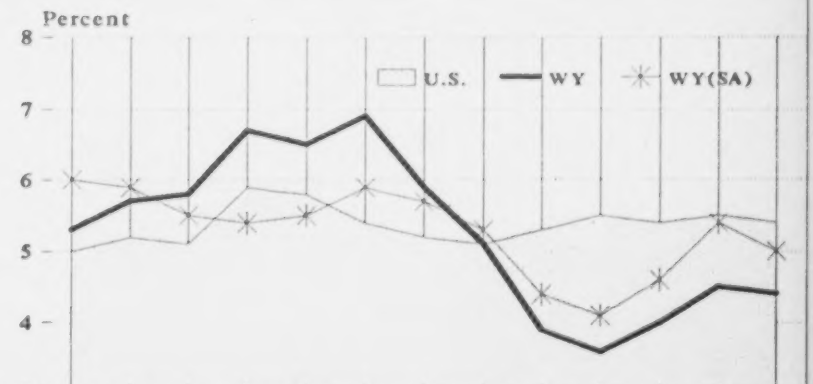
In October, the 1990, record-setting tourist season appeared to be winding down more slowly than usual. Yellowstone Park counties (Park and Teton) posted combined over-the-year labor force growth in excess of 1,300 individuals. This growth accounted for almost a third (32%) of total statewide over-the-year labor force growth.

•Retail Trade Growth Leads Service Producing Industries

Employment gains in general merchandise and automotive dealers (1,000 and 300 , respectively; Table 3) from last year, made retail trade the star performer among service-producing industries . Other notable over-the-year gains were concentrated in hotels and other lodging places (300 jobs) and in personal and business services (200 jobs).

•Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rate

The rate of unemployment (number unemployed as a percent of labor force) fluctuates seasonally due to predictable changes in weather, production schedules, opening/closing of schools, etc. Statistically removing the effects of seasonality from the actual unemployment rate permits us to determine whether or not the actual rate for the month is higher or lower than one would normally expect.



	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct
WY(SA)	6	5.9	5.5	5.4	5.5	5.9	5.7	5.3	4.4	4.1	4.6	5.4	5
WY	5.3	5.7	5.8	6.7	6.5	6.9	5.9	5.1	3.9	3.6	4	4.5	4.4
U.S.	5	5.2	5.1	5.9	5.8	5.4	5.2	5.1	5.3	5.5	5.4	5.5	5.4

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•EMPLOYMENT TRENDS IN GOODS-PRODUCING INDUSTRIES

By Gregg Detweiler & Tom Gallagher

Employment in goods-producing industries for the nation, Wyoming and other states in the region are shown on the opposing page. As the data in this table reveals, regional employment in goods producing industries is up compared last October, but it appears that the nation is headed towards recession. A primary reason for regional employment growth in the goods-producing sector hinges on the particular industrial mix within the manufacturing sector. A second explanation for regional growth in the face of national decline stems from the greater relative importance of mining employment in the region.

Nationally, one out of six workers holds a "factory job." In Wyoming, only one in 20 are employed in manufacturing (*The Employment Situation; October 1990*). In another goods-producing industry, construction, both the nation and the state employ about five percent of all workers. Mining employs around nine percent of Wyoming workers but less than one percent across the nation.

In October 1990, manufacturing jobs were down by 580,000 in the nation from peak employment in January 1989, and were down 382,000 from last year. Why then, are Wyoming, Montana, and North and South Dakota "bucking" the national trend in October by showing year-ago gains in manufacturing?

Durable goods manufacturing has borne the brunt of national job losses as consumers cut back on "big ticket" purchases. The Rocky Mountain/Northern Plains region does not generally produce consumer-driven, manufactured durable goods such as automobiles, appliances, industrial machinery, and electronic equipment. These are the manufacturing industries which have posted the greatest national job losses. In addition, the bulk of Wyoming's non-durable manufacturing employment is in petroleum refining and chemical and allied products. Petrochemical industries are among the few non-durables that have registered employment growth across the nation. Manufacturing employment in Wyoming "bucks" the national trend because it represents a different industrial mix.

Nationally, construction employment dropped by 143,000 jobs from last year as housing starts slowed and unemployment climbed to a current two-and-one-half-year high. Regionally, however, construction is a mixed bag: up in Wyoming, down in Montana, and about last year's level in both North and South Dakota. Slow housing starts have affected the region as well as the nation, although general building construction is up slightly in Wyoming (*The Employment Situation; October 1990*). Wyoming's job gains are in heavy construction, mostly in highway and related projects.

Nationally, mining is up 26,000, a 3.6 percent annual gain, as increased oil and gas activity is fueled by the gulf crisis and new technologies. In Wyoming, compared to a year ago, oil and gas extraction (part of mining) is up by 700 workers in October 1990, down slightly in Montana, and up 300 in North Dakota. South Dakota reported mining was unchanged from a year ago.

In conclusion, during the last decade employment grew nationally. On the other hand, the Rocky Mountain and Plains states went through a recession. Now, although national employment indicators for goods-producing sectors appear to signal onset of a national recession, regional employment in the broad categories of manufacturing, construction, and mining show positive growth. It remains to be seen whether our region will prosper -- or falter with the national economy.

Consnsumer Price Index (U)
All Urban October 1990

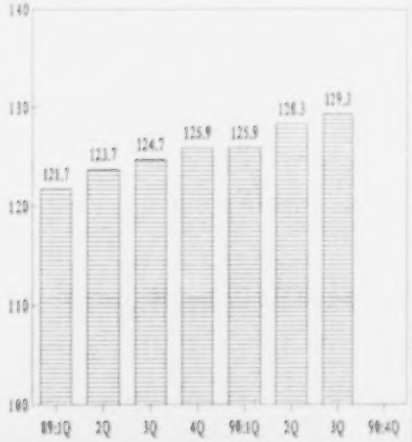
	Sept. 1990	Month Change
All Items	133.5	0.6
Food & Bev.	133.4	0.3
Housing	130.6	0.1
Apparel-Upkeep	128.4	1.3
Transportation	125.8	2.3
Medical Care	167.1	0.8
Entertainment	134.3	0.1
Other Gds./Serv.	163.2	0.4

Source: B. L. S.

Wyoming Civilian Labor Force and Employment, 1/89 through 10/90

Scale does not begin at zero

National CPI(U), Quarterly 89:1Q through 90:3Q



	P/ OCT-90	R/ SEP-90	PB/ OCT-89	Percent Change Month	Year
WYOMING					
Goods Producing	39,400	39,700	37,800	-0.76	4.23
Manufacturing	9,800	9,400	9,300	4.26	5.38
Nondurable Goods	5,500	5,100	5,300	7.84	3.77
Mining	18,100	18,100	17,400	0.00	4.02
Oil & Gas Extr.	8,800	8,600	8,100	2.33	8.64
Construction	11,500	12,200	11,100	-5.74	3.60
Gen Bldng Contr's	2,000	2,000	1,900	0.00	5.26
MONTANA					
Manufacturing	23,400	23,700	22,700	-1.27	3.08
Nondurable Goods	8,800	8,600	8,600	2.33	2.33
Mining	6,500	6,600	6,500	-1.52	0.00
Oil & Gas Extr.	1,700	1,600	1,800	6.25	-5.56
Construction	11,400	11,600	11,900	-1.72	-4.20
NORTH DAKOTA					
Manufacturing	18,600	17,750	17,200	4.79	8.14
Nondurable Goods	9,450	8,750	9,000	8.00	5.00
Mining	4,350	4,550	4,250	-4.40	2.35
Oil & Gas Extraction	2,900	3,000	2,600	-3.33	11.54
Construction	11,700	11,700	11,600	0.00	0.86
Gen Bldng Contr's	2,700	2,800	3,000	-3.57	-10.00
SOUTH DAKOTA					
Manufacturing	32,300	32,300	31,900	0.00	1.25
Nondurable Goods	14,200	14,100	14,000	0.71	1.43
Mining	2,700	2,700	2,700	0.00	0.00
Construction	11,600	11,900	11,500	-2.52	0.87
UNITED STATES					
Manufacturing	19,050,000	19,145,000	19,432,000	-0.50	-1.97
Nondurable Goods	7,990,000	8,038,000	8,057,000	-0.60	-0.83
Mining	745,000	746,000	719,000	-0.13	3.62
Oil & Gas Extr.	415,100	413,300	393,100	0.44	5.60
Construction	5,348,000	5,452,000	5,491,000	-1.91	-2.60
Gen Bldng Contr's	1,332,000	1,357,800	1,387,600	-1.90	-4.01

P/ Preliminary Estimates R/ Revised Estimates
PB/ Preliminary Benchmark Estimates
** Special thanks and appreciation to the Research & Analysis Departments of:
Montana Department of Labor & Industry
South Dakota Department of Labor
North Dakota Job Service

•Seasnonality in Unemployment Inurance Initial Claims

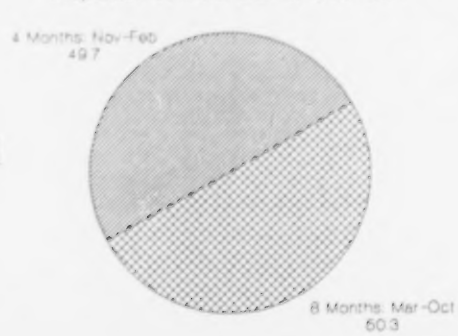
By Tom Crawford

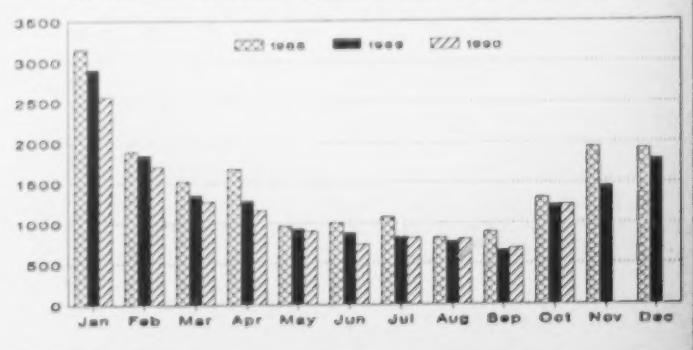
The changing of the seasons affects many activities around the State of Wyoming. The onset of colder weather alters not only outdoor leisure, but also influences commercial operations as well. In the context of Unemployment Insurance in Wyoming, the weather has a regular seasonal impact on the number of workers filing claims at specific times of the year.

"Initial claims," in Unemployment Insurance (reported in Table 1) are claims filed for the first time during the year by any unemployed person. Many circumstances may precipitate filing of initial claims. For example, layoffs due to work stoppage and/or inclement weather. The impact of snow and cold on initial claims can be seen in Figure 1. The four months that make up the severest weather in the State (November through February) had 49.7 percent of the total initial claims during the twelve months beginning November 1989. Figure 2, illustrates that a very similar pattern is observable in data from the two preceding years.

Figure 2

Figure 1





WYOMING
ECONOMIC INDICATORS

Table 1

INDUSTRY	OCTOBER 1990 1	SEPTEMBER 1990 2	OCTOBER 1989 2	Percent Change From A Month Ago	Percent Change From A Year Ago
WYOMING EMPLOYMENT DATA					
Total Civilian Labor Force	242,620	243,055	238,491	-0.2	1.7
Unemployment	10,685	10,947	12,719	-2.4	-16.0
Employed Labor Force	231,935	232,108	225,772	-0.1	2.7
Total Unemployment Rate (Wyo.) Seasonally Adjusted*	4.4% 5.0%*	4.5% 5.4%*	5.3% 6.0%*	N/A	N/A
Total Unemployment Rate (U.S.) Seas. Adjusted*	5.4% 5.7%*	5.5% 5.7%*	5.0% 5.3%*	N/A	N/A
HOURS & EARNINGS 4					
Mining (Production Workers):					
Average Weekly Earnings	$ 665.10	$ 692.39	$ 658.35	-3.9	1.0
Average Weekly Hours	45.0	46.5	45.0	24.0	0.0
Average Hourly Earnings	$ 14.78	$ 14.89	$ 14.63	-0.7	1.0
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE					
Claims Filed in Local Offices	10,921	7,923	11,033	37.8	-1.0
a. Initial	2,227	1,423	2,405	56.5	-7.4
Weeks Compensated	6,492	4,957	6,420	31.0	1.1
Total Amount Benefits Paid	$ 1,012,761	$ 773,337	$ 987,550	31.0	2.6
Average Weekly Benefit Payment	$ 155.54	$ 155.33	$ 153.61	0.1	1.3
Unemployment Insurance State Covered Jobs 3	178,928	184,348	177,298	-2.9	0.9
Insured Unemployment Rate (Wyo.)	1.0%	0.9%	1.0%	N/A	N/A
EMPLOYMENT SERVICES					
Total Applications Received During Month	4,590	5,090	4,025	-9.8	14.0
Total Openings Received	3,547	4,033	3,399	-12.1	4.4
Individual Placements	1,919	2,200	1,798	-12.8	6.7
Placement Transactions	3,031	3,123	2,835	-2.9	6.9
UNITED STATES DATA					
HOURS & EARNINGS 4					
Mining					
Average Weekly Earnings	$ 616.90	$ 621.45	$ 583.44	-0.7	5.7
Average Weekly Hours	44.8	45.0	44.1	-0.4	1.6
Average Hourly Earnings	$ 13.77	$ 13.81	$ 13.23	-0.3	4.1
PRICE INDEXES					
Consumer Price Index 1982-84=100	133.5	132.7	125.6	0.6	6.3
Producer Prices, All Commodities 1982-84=100	120.8	118.3	112.8	2.1	7.1
Food and Beverage 1982-84=100	133.4	133.0	126.3	0.3	5.6

1 Preliminary. 2 Revised. 3 Not benchmarked to current population survey. 4 Estimates include all full- and part-time wage and salary workers in non-agricultural establishments who worked or received pay during the week which includes the 12th of the month. Proprietors, self-employeds, domestic servants, and personnel of the armed forces are excluded. 5 Local Area Unemployment Statistics Program estimates. N/A Not Appropriate

WYOMING
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE AND UNEMPLOYMENT
(Prepared in cooperation with U S. Bureau of Labor Statistics)

TABLE 2

COUNTY	LABOR FORCE					UNEMPLOYMENT			UNEMPLOYMENT RATE		
	OCT 1990	SEP 1990	OCT 1989	CHANGE SEP-OCT	% CHANGE OCT-OCT	OCT 1990	SEP 1990	OCT 1989	OCT 1990	SEP 1990	OCT 1989
Statewide	242,620	243,055	238,491	-0.2	1.7	10,685	10,947	12,719	4.4	4.5	5.3
Statewide - Seasonally Adjusted									5.0	5.4	6.0
Albany	17,534	17,127	16,528	2.4	6.1	474	472	557	2.7	2.8	3.4
Big Horn	5,495	5,354	5,300	2.6	3.7	262	292	251	4.8	5.5	4.7
Campbell	15,536	15,253	15,300	1.9	1.5	840	780	844	5.4	5.1	5.5
Carbon	8,395	8,232	8,115	2.0	3.5	527	445	460	6.3	5.4	5.7
Converse	4,569	4,728	5,119	-3.4	-10.7	215	317	403	4.7	6.7	7.9
Crook	2,910	2,914	3,075	-0.1	-5.4	118	75	122	4.1	2.6	4.0
Fremont	16,707	16,798	16,482	-0.5	1.4	842	925	1,091	5.0	5.5	6.6
Goshen	6,721	5,980	6,645	12.4	1.1	162	149	192	2.4	2.5	2.9
Hot Springs	3,088	2,974	3,010	3.8	2.6	116	93	177	3.8	3.1	5.9
Johnson	4,065	3,787	3,798	7.3	7.0	271	75	165	6.7	2.0	4.3
Laramie	38,217	36,912	37,375	3.5	2.3	1,617	1,679	2,008	4.2	4.5	5.4
Lincoln	5,630	5,722	5,815	-1.6	-3.2	273	321	342	4.8	5.6	5.9
Natrona	31,286	31,245	31,183	0.1	0.3	1,488	1,716	1,831	4.8	5.5	5.9
Niobrara	1,550	1,507	1,580	2.9	-1.9	55	64	91	3.5	4.2	5.8
Park	13,654	14,330	13,065	-4.7	4.5	591	644	627	4.3	4.5	4.8
Platte	4,040	4,136	4,285	-2.3	-5.7	179	226	264	4.4	5.5	6.2
Sheridan	13,610	13,320	13,020	2.2	4.5	595	528	513	4.4	4.0	3.9
Sublette	3,164	3,188	2,943	-0.8	7.5	72	89	120	2.3	2.8	4.1
Sweetwater	18,889	19,320	18,907	-2.2	-0.1	924	1,041	1,228	4.9	5.4	6.5
Teton	10,278	12,550	9,564	-18.1	7.5	365	211	314	3.6	1.7	3.3
Uinta	9,397	9,934	9,270	-5.4	1.4	479	520	618	5.1	5.2	6.7
Washakie	4,586	4,418	4,727	3.8	-3.0	130	147	323	2.8	3.3	6.8
Weston	3,302	3,327	3,383	-0.8	-2.4	92	137	175	2.8	4.1	5.2
United States									5.4	5.5	5.0
United States - Seasonally Adjusted									5.7	5.7	5.3

Benchmarked 02/89, Run Date 11/90

Table 3--WYOMING NONAGRICULTURAL WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT; STATEWIDE & SELECTED COUNTIES

	EMPLOYMENT IN THOUSANDS			PERCENT CHANGE TOTAL EMPLOYMENT	
	OCT 90(2)	SEP 90(3)	OCT 89	SEP 90 OCT 90	OCT 89 OCT 90
TOTAL NONAG. WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT	200.5	203.7	198.0	-1.6	1.3
TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING	39.4	39.7	37.8	-0.8	4.2
Mining	18.1	18.1	17.4	0.0	4.0
Coal Mining	4.6	4.7	4.6	-2.1	0.0
Oil & Gas Extraction	8.8	8.6	8.1	2.3	8.6
Nonmetallic Minerals	3.9	4.0	3.9	-2.5	0.0
Construction	11.5	12.2	11.1	-5.7	3.6
General Building Contractors	2.0	2.0	1.9	0.0	5.3
Heavy Construction	4.7	5.2	4.2	-9.6	11.9
Special Trade Construction	4.8	5.0	5.0	-4.0	-4.0
Manufacturing	9.8	9.4	9.3	4.3	5.4
Durable Goods	4.3	4.3	4.0	0.0	7.5
Nondurable Goods	5.5	5.1	5.3	7.8	3.8
Printing & Publishing	1.7	1.7	1.7	0.0	0.0
Petroleum & Coal Products	1.2	1.2	1.2	0.0	0.0
TOTAL SERVICE PRODUCING	161.1	164.0	160.2	-1.8	0.6
Transportation & Public Utilities	14.7	14.7	14.6	0.0	0.7
Transportation	8.9	9.0	8.9	-1.1	0.0
Railroad Transportation	2.8	2.8	2.7	0.0	3.7
Trucking & Warehousing	4.6	4.6	4.6	0.0	0.0
Communications	2.2	2.2	2.2	0.0	0.0
Electric, Gas & Sanitary Services	3.6	3.6	3.6	0.0	0.0
Trade	45.7	47.1	45.1	-3.0	1.3
Wholesale Trade	7.1	7.3	7.3	-2.7	-2.7
Durable Goods	3.8	3.9	3.9	-2.6	-2.6
Nondurable Goods	3.3	3.4	3.4	-2.9	-2.9
Retail Trade	38.6	39.8	37.8	-3.0	2.1
Builg. Matls. & Garden Supplies	1.4	1.4	1.5	0.0	-6.7
General Merchandise Stores	4.9	5.1	3.9	-3.9	25.6
Food Stores	5.6	5.8	5.9	-3.5	-5.1
Auto. Dlrs. & Service Stations	6.5	6.5	6.2	0.0	4.8
Apparel & Accessory Stores	1.4	1.5	1.4	-6.7	0.0
Furniture & Home Furn. Stores	1.0	0.9	1.0	11.1	0.0
Eating & Drinking Places	13.8	14.4	13.8	-4.2	0.0
Miscellaneous Retail	4.0	4.2	4.1	-4.8	-2.4
Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate	7.4	7.4	7.3	0.0	1.4
Insurance	1.6	1.6	1.6	0.0	0.0
Services	37.0	39.6	36.7	-6.6	0.8
Hotels & Other Lodging Places	6.9	9.1	6.6	-24.2	4.6
Personal Services	1.7	1.7	1.6	0.0	6.3
Business Services	3.4	3.5	3.3	-2.9	3.0
Automotive & Misc. Repair Svcs.	2.5	2.6	2.7	-3.9	-7.4
Amusements (Rec.Svcs.& Mot.Pics.)	2.5	2.8	2.5	-10.7	0.0
Health Services	7.7	7.8	7.8	-1.3	-1.3
Legal Services	1.0	1.0	1.0	0.0	0.0
Social Services	3.2	3.1	3.1	3.2	3.2
Government	56.3	55.2	56.5	2.0	-0.4
Total Federal Government	7.7	7.7	7.4	0.0	4.1
Total State Government	13.6	12.8	13.4	6.3	1.5
Total Local Government	35.0	34.7	35.7	0.9	-2.0

See Footnotes at bottom of Table 3 (cont'd), facing page

Table 3 (cont'd)--WYOMING NONAGRICULTURAL WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT, STATWIDE & SELECTED COUNTIES

LARAMIE COUNTY	EMPLOYMENT IN THOUSANDS OCT 90(2)	SEP 90(3)	OCT 89	PERCENT CHANGE TOTAL EMPLOYMENT SEP 90 OCT 90	OCT 89 OCT 90
TOTAL NONAG WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT	32.3	32.3	31.8	0.0	1.6
TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING	3.1	3.2	3.3	-3.1	-6.1
Mining & Construction	1.7	1.8	1.9	-5.6	-10.5
Manufacturing	1.4	1.4	1.4	0.0	0.0
TOTAL SERVICE PRODUCING	29.2	29.1	28.5	0.3	2.5
Transportation and Public Util.	3.2	3.3	3.2	-3.0	0.0
Trade	7.2	7.3	7.2	-1.4	0.0
Wholesale Trade	0.8	0.8	0.9	0.0	-11.1
Retail Trade	6.4	6.5	6.3	-1.5	1.6
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	2.0	1.9	1.8	5.3	11.1
Services	6.4	6.5	6.1	-1.5	4.9
Total Government	10.3	10.1	10.2	2.0	1.0
Federal Government	2.7	2.7	2.7	0.0	0.0
State Government	3.4	3.3	3.2	3.0	6.3
Local Government	4.2	4.1	4.3	2.4	-2.3
NATRONA COUNTY					
TOTAL NONAG WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT	28.5	28.5	28.3	0.0	0.7
TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING	5.7	5.9	5.6	-3.4	1.8
Manufacturing	1.6	1.6	1.7	0.0	-5.9
Mining	2.5	2.5	2.3	0.0	8.7
Oil & Gas Extraction	2.3	2.4	2.1	-4.2	9.5
Construction	1.6	1.8	1.6	-11.1	0.0
TOTAL SERVICE PRODUCING	22.8	22.6	22.7	0.9	0.4
Transportation & Public Utilities	1.8	1.8	1.8	0.0	0.0
Transportation	1.1	1.1	1.1	0.0	0.0
Communications & Public Utilities	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.0	0.0
Trade	7.9	8.0	8.0	-1.3	-1.3
Wholesale Trade	2.1	2.1	2.1	0.0	0.0
Retail Trade	5.8	5.9	5.9	-1.7	-1.7
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	1.4	1.4	1.4	0.0	0.0
Services	6.6	6.5	6.5	1.5	1.5
Personal & Business Services	1.3	1.3	1.3	0.0	0.0
Health Services	2.0	2.0	1.9	0.0	5.3
Government	5.1	4.9	5.0	4.1	2.0

(1) Estimates include all full and part-time wage and salary workers in nonagricultural establishments who worked or received pay during the week which includes the 12th of the month. Proprietors, self-employeds, domestic services, and personnel of the armed forces are excluded.
(2) Subject to revision
(3) Revised
Source: Research & Planning, CES Program

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